

REMARKS

The specification has been amended in order to correct a grammatical error contained therein. No new matter has been added.

In order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled and replaced by newly presented Claims 3-11 which more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. It is respectfully submitted that the currently presented claims are cured of all formal defects.

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 49-30430. Claim 2 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 49-30430 or JP 08-006229 in view of JP 49-30430. Applicants respectfully traverse these grounds of rejection and urge reconsideration in light of the following comments.

The presently claimed invention is directed to an adhesive sheet capable of repeated adhesion and release and a laminate comprising an article and the adhesive sheet adhered thereto. The adhesive sheet comprises a substrate, an adhesive layer provided on at least one side of the substrate and a non-adhesive protective material layer provided on the adhesive agent layer in a pattern that exposes portions of the adhesive agent layer between and below portions of the non-adhesive protective material layer. The total volume of the exposed portions of the adhesive agent layer is a product of the surface area of the exposed portions of the adhesive agent layer and the thickness of the protective material layer and provides a desired adhesive strength when the adhesive sheet is adhered to an article. When the adhesive sheet is adhered to the article, it is provided in a wavy form due to the protective material layer being pressed toward the facing

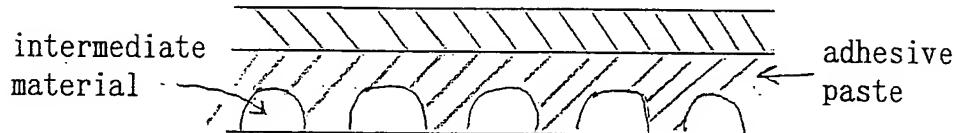
face of the article by pressure applied from the back thereof and being adhered in a dotted pattern to the article (Figs. 3, 4, 6 and 8).

As discussed in the present specification, the adhesive sheet of the present invention is capable of repeated adhesion and release to an article by providing a non-adhesive protective material layer on the adhesive agent layer in a pattern to expose portions of the adhesive agent layer below the protective material layer. The total volume of the exposed spaces of the adhesive agent layer is determined by multiplying the surface area of the exposed adhesive agent sections of the thickness of the protective material layer and controlling the exposed volume to obtain a desired adhesion strength of the adhesive sheet to the article. With this type of structure, the adhesive sheet can be successfully and repeatedly adhered to and released from an article. Additionally, due to the claimed construction, problems such as the exposed areas of the adhesive agent layer adhering to undesired objects such as the fingers of the user can be avoided. It is respectfully submitted that the prior art cited by the Examiner does not disclose the presently claimed invention.

JP 49-30430 discloses an adhesive fastener prepared by putting an immediate material 3 in the form of fine particles, fine fibers or fine mesh into an adhesive layer 4 of non-drying adhesive paste 2 applied to a support tape 1. When the adhesive fastener is affixed onto an object by pressing, the adhesive paste is pushed out from the voids of the intermediate material by pressing so as to adhere to the surface of the object. When affixed on the object 5 by pressing, the support tape 1 is flat as shown in Figure 4 of this reference. In order for the support tape 1 to be flat after being adhered to an object, the surface level of the adhesive paste 2 is the same as the surface of the intermediate material 3 as illustrated in the below drawing.

adhesive fastener of JP'430 prior to adhesion

support



If the level of the adhesive paste 2 was lower than that of the intermediate material 3, the support tape 1 would have had undulations at the portions corresponding to the adhesive portions of the adhesive layer when adhered to the object by pressing. However, actually the support tape is flat after adhesion of the fastener tape, as shown in Fig. 4 of JP '430. As such, in this reference, the adhesive fastener is not provided with spaces having a size based on the adhesion strength required for the desired adhesion to the object and there is no motivation to provide exposed portions of the adhesive layer which are provided between and below portions of the non-adhesive protective material layer.

Therefore, the adhesive fastener of JP '430 is sticky and presents difficulties in handling or use, such as sticking to the fingers and undesired areas of an article or machine. In contrast thereto, the adhesive sheet of the present invention is not sticky prior to adhesion to an article due to the presence of the exposed adhesive layer spaces provided below and surrounded by the protective material such that problems do not occur in handling, manual use or on machines and repeated adhesion and release can be achieved without any problem. In the operations of making packaging bags, such as plastic bags which can be repeatedly reopened (released) and resealed (re-stuck), and filling them with food on a bag making and filling machine, non-sticky zippers are used. However, there has been known adhesive tapes, including the adhesive fastener of JP '430, which cannot be used on the above machine without sticking to the machine. Due to the

non-sticky surface, applicants' adhesive sheet can be used for making bags and putting food, etc., into the bags on a bag making and filling machine without any mechanical trouble or difficulties. Therefore, the claimed adhesive sheets are industrially useful, as shown in Example 3. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the presently claimed invention clearly is patentably distinguishable over this reference.

JP 08-006229 discloses a light shielding adhesive sheet which is formed by successively laminating a colored layer 2', an adhesive layer 3, a colored layer 2 and a transparent resin film 1 on a transparent resin film 1'. Although Applicants respectfully submit that there is no motivation contained in this reference to combine it with JP '229, even if such a motivation existed, there still is no motivation to modify JP '229 in a manner that would provide exposed adhesive spaces below the protective material layer. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the presently claimed invention clearly is patentably distinguishable over JP '430 in combination with JP '229.

Reconsideration of the present application and the passing of it to issue is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Amendments to the Specification

IN THE TITLE

Please change USPTO records to indicate that the title to be used in this application is ---ADHESIVE SHEET CAPABLE OF REPEATED ADHESION AND RELEASE---, which title coincides with the title appearing in the English translation of the specification.

IN THE WRITTEN DESCRIPTION

Please replace paragraph [0058] with the following amended paragraph:

[0058] The present invention involves providing a protective material to a face side coated with an adhesive, and suitably adjusting the spaces obtained by multiplying the surface area of the adhesive sections by the thickness (distance) of the protective material. This allows repeated adhesion and peeling. Also, because of these spaces, the tape having the partially covered adhesive face does not feel sticky, and is also easy to mechanically ~~attached~~attach to a packaging bag. Furthermore, if the adhesive agent or the face coated with the adhesive agent is colored, the user can tell the extent of sealing.